

As many members of the NAFA community are already aware, the Board of Directors held a teleconference on March 20, 2017, which resulted in the following:

Changes to the Open Class:

As previously messaged, the Open Class will no longer have a jump height requirement; teams are free to choose any jump height between 7 to 14 inches in accordance with the Rules of Racing.

A second change to the Open Class was proposed and accepted by the Board. This change is the elimination of false starts in the Open Class. Any dog false starting in the Open Class will receive a foul and need to be rerun if the handler so chooses. The heat will not be stopped for false starts.

The Open Class changes will be conducted on a trial basis from May 1st, 2017 through October 30, 2017.

In addition, there will be a comment period concurrent with the dates above for the NAFA community to provide their feedback. All comments both for and against the proposals should be addressed to:
openclasschangesfeedback@flyball.org

While the Board has received individual emails and are aware of comments on social media, only messages sent to this address will be used by the Board for future discussions regarding the changes proposed in the Open Class during the trial period.

Revocation of Height Cards Obtained Under Previous Measuring Guidelines:

Recently, the NAFA Board of Directors finalized the revised wording and associated illustrations regarding the stance required when measuring a dog's height. Looking at the final product, it's clear that for many judges, this will make a difference in how they measure a dog. While the intent of the new wording is consistent with the old, the new wording removes ambiguity and ultimately sets a more prescriptive standard for what is expected. As this has evolved to a new standard, it also becomes clear that to create an even and equitable playing field for all dogs racing in an event, all dogs need to be measured to the same standard. To deliver this equity across all NAFA events, the Board has voted (effective May 1st, 2017) to invalidate all existing height cards as they were measured under the old (and broader) standard. While this was not the Board's original intent, it's clearly the only fair approach seeing the new wording and illustrations in their finished form. Effective May 1st, 2017, concurrent with the implementation of the new measuring standard all existing height cards will be revoked.

It is the Board's intention to preserve the investment of height cards fees paid to NAFA for those who have active dogs with height cards effective May 1st, 2017. Since the new height card process is not yet finalized, we can't detail how that investment will be preserved. Our intent is that someone who paid NAFA for a height card on a dog that is active as of May 1st, 2017 will receive financial consideration in the new height card process.

Measuring Stance Guidelines and Associated Illustrations:

Below is the new measuring stance wording and additional illustrations effective May 1st, 2017. NAFA Judges have been provided with the new standard and illustrations. They will have the opportunity to review the changes and ask questions of the Judges Committee for any clarification if needed.

1. Measuring Stance:

The front legs will be vertical, so as to draw a line perpendicular to the ground that runs from the withers to the point of the elbow and follows the rear of the leg to the floor. The dog's head must be in an upright position with the dog's jaw line parallel to the floor. The back legs will be positioned with the hocks perpendicular to the ground and spread no wider than the width of the dog as shown in illustration 4.1.

